

Future Farm update

Welcome and enjoy this brand-new newsletter giving you an update of Future Farm!



**Harper Adams
University**

Don't forget!
The Future Farm conference is being held on the **13th of December 2024**, at the Weston Lecture Theatre.

To find out more and register your attendance, scan the QR code:



IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming events and Local news

Details of some of the upcoming industry events happening in November 2024 and local news

An insight into the performance of the farm animals

A visual representation of the performance of our animals and how our farm compares to benchmark values

Life cycle of our dairy cows

A visual demonstration of what happens in the life of a Future Farm dairy cow

Industry news

The top news stories in September/October 2024, which are relevant to Future Farm

Did you know...

Our monthly section containing general farming facts.

Thank you and Feedback

A brief thank you to our readers and details on where you can give feedback

Don't forget to check out our website for more information on the farm at <https://futurefarm.zone/>

Upcoming Industry events:

Agrifest South-West – 6th November 2024 @ Westpoint, Exeter

Northern Farming Conference – 6th November 2024 @ Hexham Mart, Tyne Green

TotalDairy Seminar – 6th and 7th November 2024 @ The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford

Anglesey Winter Show – 9th and 10th November 2024 @ The Showground, Holyhead

Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show – 9th and 10th November 2024 @ Newark Showground, Newark-on-Trent

AgriScot – 13th November 2024 @ The Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston

~~**English Winter Fair** – 16th and 17th November 2024 @ Weston Road, Stafford~~ – **cancelled due to the threat of bluetongue virus**

Nuffield Farming Annual Conference – 19th till 21st November 2024 @ Europa Hotel, Belfast

Midlands Machinery Show – 20th and 21st November 2024 @ The Showground, Newark

CropTec – 27th and 28th November 2024 @ Stoneleigh NAEC

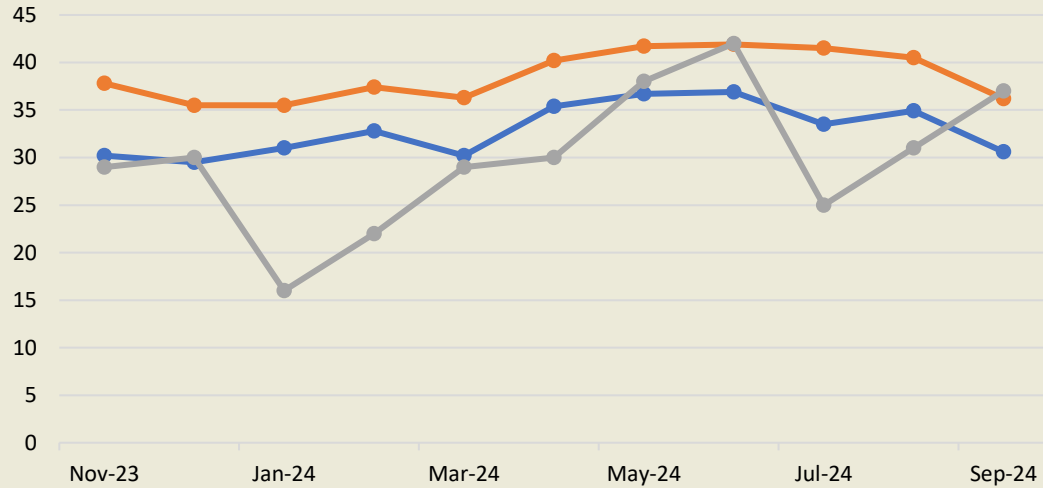
Local News:

1. Hi-vis is now a requirement for everyone entering the farm. We still want you to visit, we are just asking you to wear a hi-vis vest before entering the farm. These can be collected from either Ancellor Yard or the Beef and Sheep unit boot room.
2. We have had an increasing number of dog attacks on our sheep in fields across Edgmond. We are adding signs near the pasture fields that contain information about our sheep and includes the university security phone number for walkers to ring in case they witness a dog attack. Please be vigilant when walking around the farm as dog attacks, also known as 'sheep worrying' is a rural crime. For more information on sheep worrying by dogs, please click [here](#).

Future Farm Animal Performance in September 2024:

The Main Dairy milk yield and KPI's in comparison to all NMR recorded herds of a similar herd size (Please note. The data in the graph and screenshot of the KPI table are from Herd Companion)

Herd Production Summary - Main Dairy



	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Avg Yield	30.2	29.5	31	32.8	30.2	35.4	36.7	36.9	33.5	34.9	30.6
Avg Milking Yield	37.8	35.5	35.5	37.4	36.3	40.2	41.7	41.9	41.5	40.5	36.2
SCC > 200	29	30	16	22	29	30	38	42	25	31	37

Benchmark
New
Export

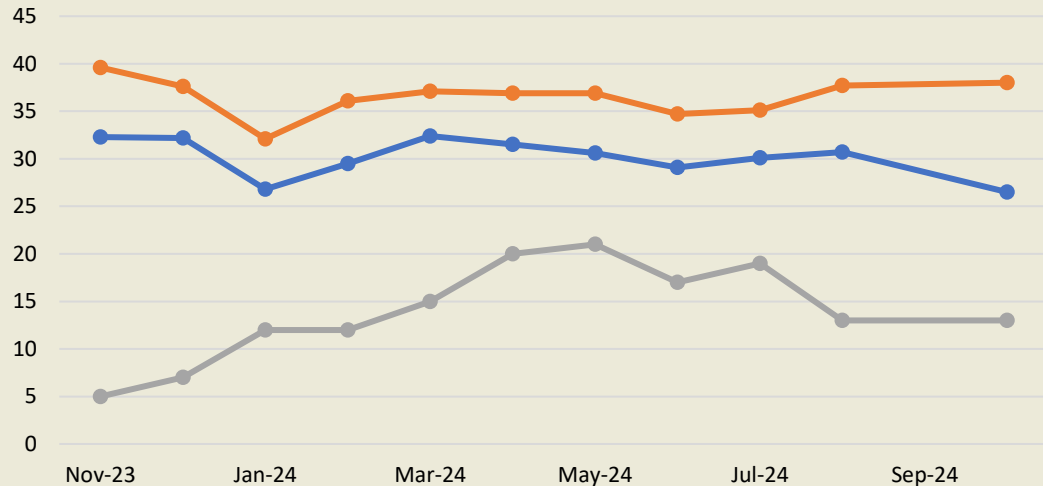
NMR14: Holstein herds > 300 cows
Benchmarks
Export

Drag a column header here to group by that column

KPIs	'Worst' <-----> 'Best'	Worst	You	Best	Mean
Milk/Cow/Year of life	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	4,094	7,922	8,874	5,965
Milk/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 90%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	6,289	12,178	13,074	9,820
Lactation Yield	<div style="width: 85%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	5,851	11,533	12,995	9,608
305 Day yield	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	5,868	10,196	11,713	8,770
Protein/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 85%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	213	385	428	333
Fat/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	274	463	653	417
Ave. Protein %	<div style="width: 10%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	3.12	3.16	3.79	3.40
Ave. Fat %	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	3.69	3.80	5.51	4.26
Mean Parity	<div style="width: 30%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	1.99	2.67	3.50	2.74
Calv. Interval<385 %	<div style="width: 10%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	29.17	45.98	82.25	57.18
Ave. Lactation length	<div style="width: 15%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	378	332	241	308
Ave. SCC	<div style="width: 95%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	380	113	80	169
% Cows in Parity 1	<div style="width: 40%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	44.36	27.09	11.51	30.02
Age 1st Calving	<div style="width: 90%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	948	729	672	780
Ave. Calving interval	<div style="width: 15%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	454	400	359	391
Ave. Dry days	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	76	47	34	55
Culling + Death %	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	63	28	18	32
Ave. No. Cows	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, #ccc, #008000);"></div>	279	361	1,229	492

The Smart Dairy milk yield and KPI's in comparison to all NMR recorded herds of a similar herd size (Please note. The data in the graph and screenshot of the KPI table are from Herd Companion)

Herd Production Summary - Smart Dairy



	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Oct-24
Avg Yield	32.3	32.2	26.8	29.5	32.4	31.5	30.6	29.1	30.1	30.7	26.5
Avg Milking Yield	39.6	37.6	32.1	36.1	37.1	36.9	36.9	34.7	35.1	37.7	38
SCC > 200	5	7	12	12	15	20	21	17	19	13	13

Benchmark	New	Export
NMR11: Holstein herds <= 100 cows	Benchmarks	Export

Drag a column header here to group by that column

KPIs	'Worst' <-----> 'Best'	Worst	You	Best	Mean
Milk/Cow/Year of life		1,801	9,867	7,438	4,467
Milk/Cow/Year		2,732	10,725	11,343	7,060
Lactation Yield		3,177	12,108	12,119	7,768
305 Day yield		2,781	10,312	9,951	6,832
Protein/Cow/Year		93	356	382	239
Fat/Cow/Year		123	402	478	298
Ave. Protein %		3.22	3.32	3.71	3.39
Ave. Fat %		3.14	3.75	5.34	4.22
Mean Parity		1.86	3.81	4.43	3.08
Calv. Interval<385 %		4.76	35.29	74.67	46.03
Ave. Lactation length		559	320	207	339
Ave. SCC		1,003	671	80	210
% Cows in Parity 1		52.13	5.56	7.55	26.46
Age 1st Calving		1,351	768	731	897
Ave. Calving interval		647	424	368	414
Ave. Dry days		104	68	31	57
Culling + Death %		90	20	6	28
Ave. No. Cows		29	48	123	76

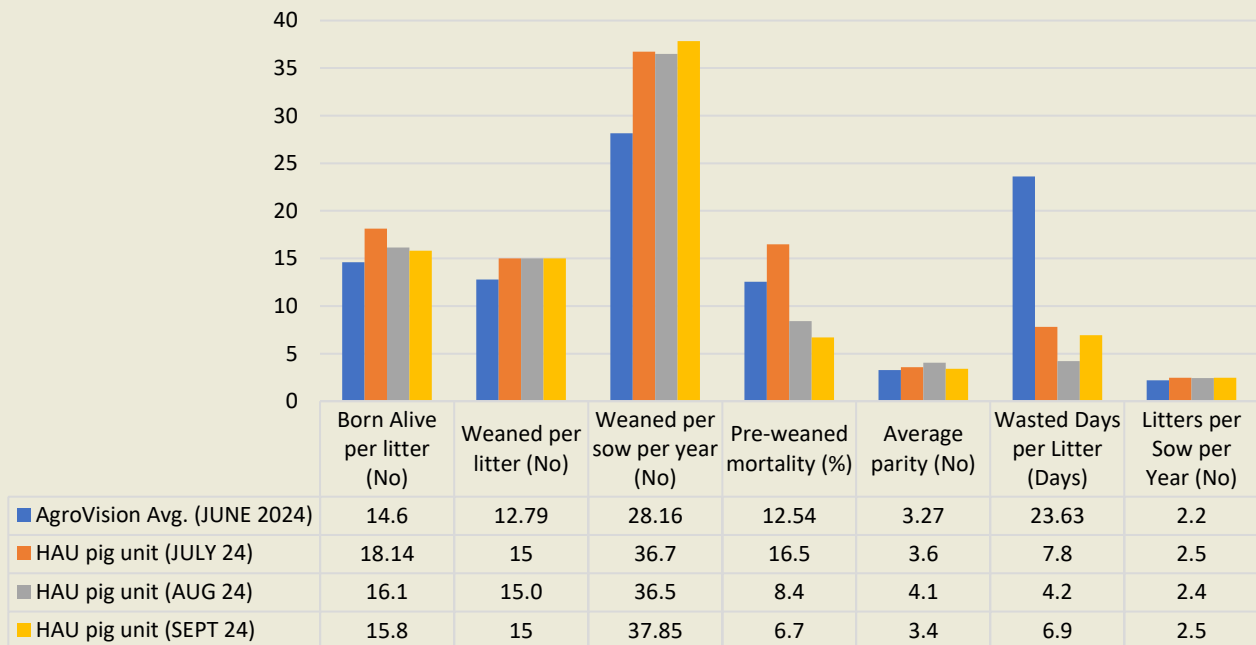
The Main dairy and Smart dairy milk quality components in comparison to the Benchmark Muller average

September 2024

	Main Dairy	Smart Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	3.85	4.00	4.25
Avg Protein (%)	3.15	3.25	3.38
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	152	299	160.9
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	23	39	19.93
Therms (cfu/ml)	140	18000	845.2
FPD (m*C)	527	525	

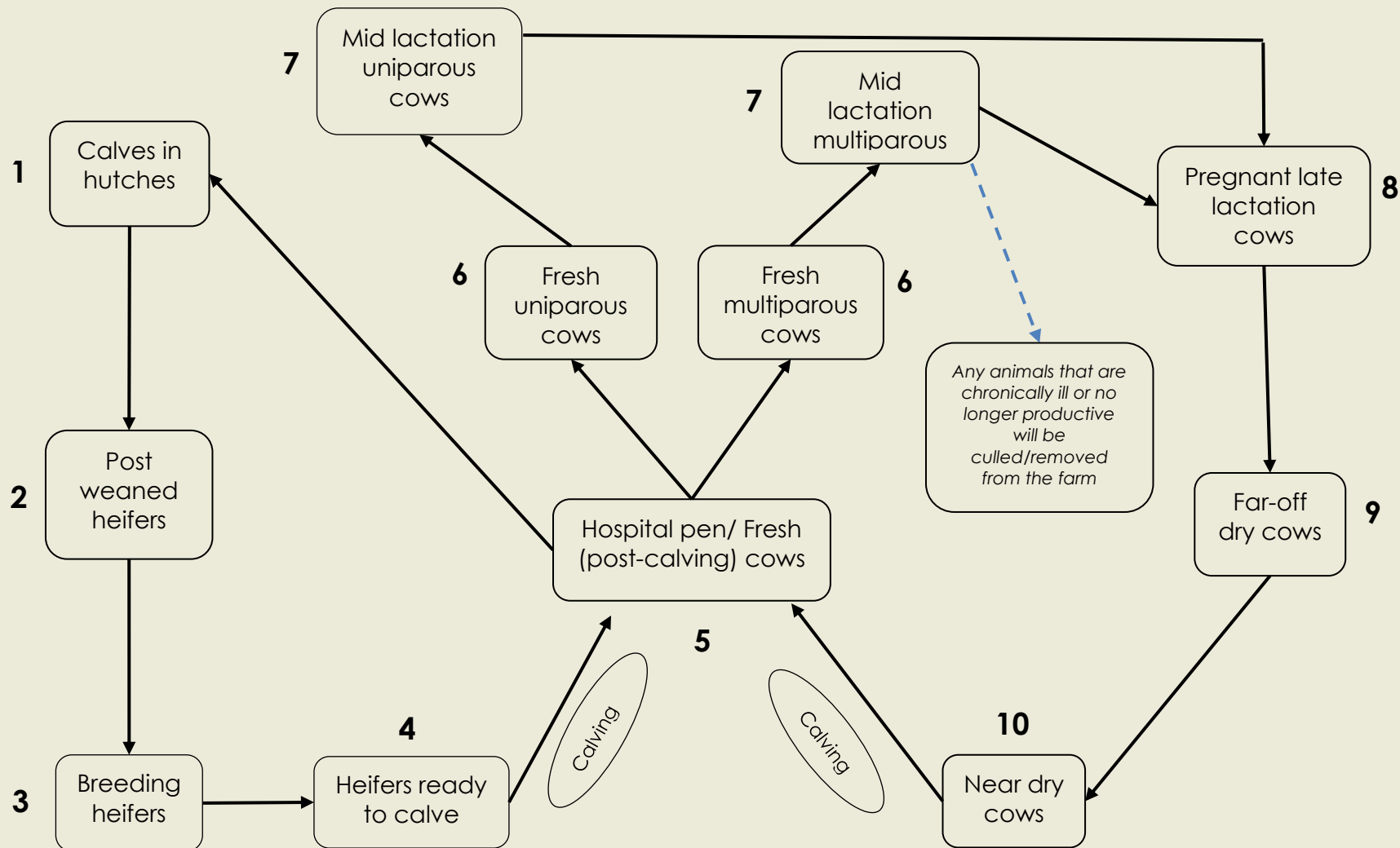
The Pig unit production performance in comparison to the AgroVision Benchmark average (Please note. The AgroVision Benchmark figures are produced on a quarterly basis, for this performance comparison the June 2024 report has been used).

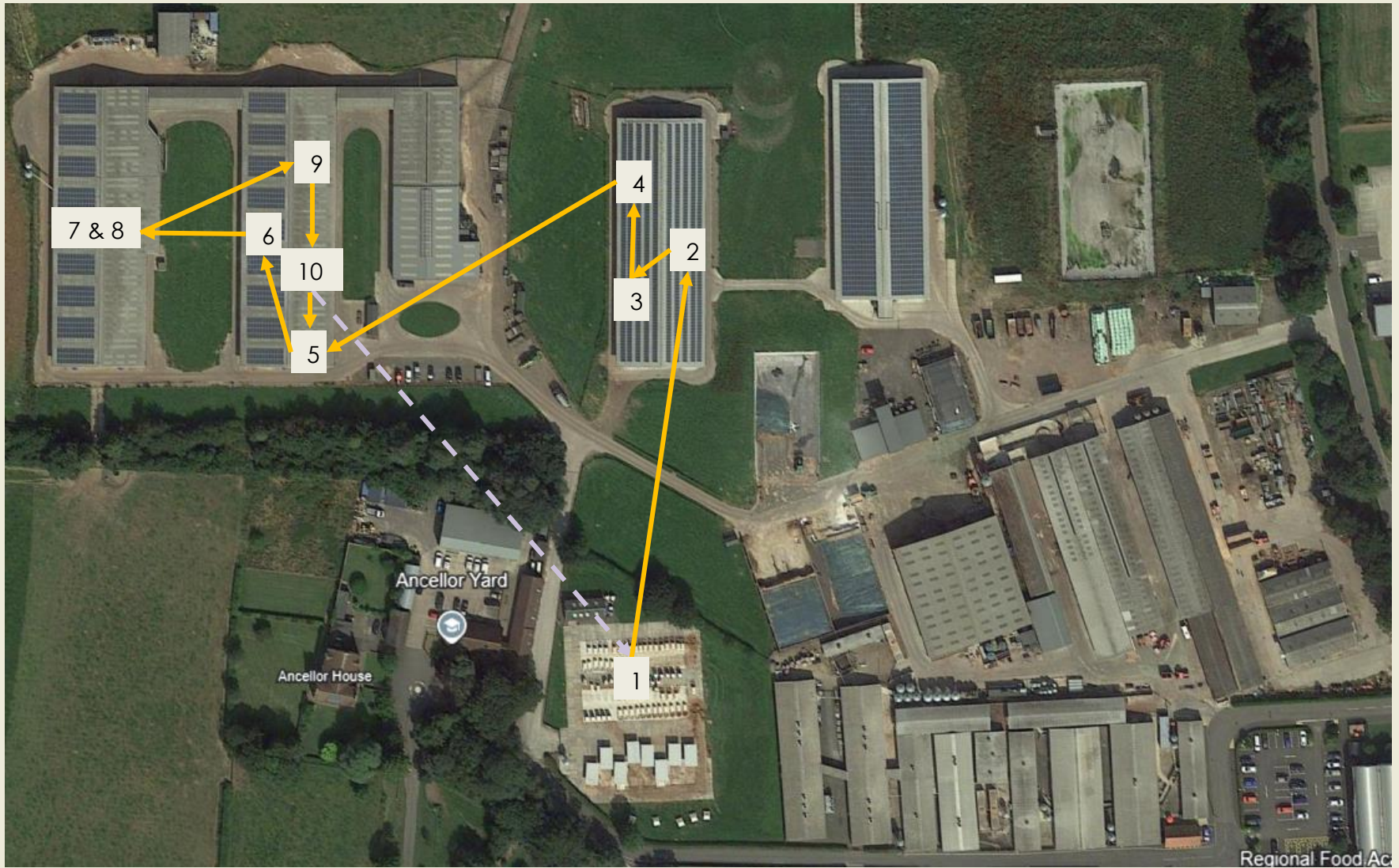
Pig Unit Performance vs AgroVision Benchmark



Visual representation on the life of a dairy cow on the main dairy unit at Future Farm:

The next two pages demonstrate the likely* journey a dairy cow takes from its day of birth to joining the main dairy herd at Future Farm.





*This cycle may change based on individual animal needs, weather etc.

Industry news:

From the 27th of September, Defra tightened the rules surrounding personal pork imports to safeguard the UK's £8bn pig industry against African swine fever (ASF) entering the country.

The personal imports of pork and pork products from the European Economic Area (EEA), the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Switzerland will be banned unless they meet EU commercial standards and weigh less than 2kg. This action will hopefully prevent the introduction of ASF into the UK through infected meat and protect the £600m pork export market.

ASF is highly contagious and a deadly disease in pigs and wild boars which can be transmitted through infected meat, but poses no risk to human health, however, if an outbreak was to occur, Defra estimates it could cost between £10m to £100m and have a significant impact on the pig industry.

The UK government has said they are also investing £3.1m to support Dover Port Health Authority in tackling illegal meat imports. Since the introduction of previous restrictions in 2022, about 100t of illegal pork products have been seized and destroyed.

Our biosecurity policy at Future Farm prevents our pigs from being exposed to diseases like ASF and by keeping a closed herd reduces the introduction of an infected animal. For more information on this tightened restriction, click [here](#).

On the 10th of October, the #IfNotWhyNot campaign was launched to encourage ATV users to ask other users the reasons for not wearing helmets. Statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reveal that since April, five fatalities in England, Scotland, and Wales have been linked to ATV use, with two fatalities involving children, however, careless use of ATVs are ongoing.

If an ATV user wears a helmet and receives adequate training, they will reduce their chance of a serious head injury if the ATV overturns. If the individual has neither, the HSE has confirmed that it may lead to enforcement actions, including prosecution.

Future Farm have ATVs on the farm for everyday use or for specific job-related activities. As part of our health and safety protocol, all users of unroofed ATVs are expected to wear a helmet when operating the vehicle. The safety of staff and visitors at Future Farm is of great importance, if you see something hazardous on the farm, please contact the health and safety team at hands@harper-adams.ac.uk.

In mid-September to early October, the UK witnessed 'biblical' events of rainfall, with several counties in Shropshire recording over three times the 1991-2020 September average rainfall. In the wettest areas of the UK, up to 200 mm of rainfall was recorded.

Not only did this rainfall disrupt civilian life but also impacted the forthcoming events on many farms. Some farmers would have seen their freshly drilled crops destroyed by the immense rainfall whereas others would have been waiting for the rain to stop to get the last of their crop harvested.

Future Farm had plenty of rain to contend with which made travelling or working the land very difficult, but luckily, we were able to harvest all arable fields before the rain hit. However, this rain ultimately delayed the harvest of our maize fields and any plans to drill fields with next year's crop. Harvesting the maize fields early was not an option as we could not afford to clamp immature maize, as this option would affect our winter feed stocks.

These unexpected weather events are likely to occur more frequently in the future, for farmers and growers to remain competitive and resilient, there will be a need to adjust cropping plans to grow crops that suit their farming system but also cope with the varying weather conditions.

Talking about the weather, how could a mixed farming enterprise adapt their farming techniques to overcome the challenges of extreme weather events?

One topic of discussion that has been highlighted in [farmers weekly](#), is the potential 'benefit of topping silage clamps with fodder beet', also known as co-ensiling. It is a common practice in Northern Europe to top clamps of maize or grass silage with layers of crushed or chopped fodder beet, providing a ready-made total mixed ration with enhanced feed value and reduced issues associated with ensiling the mix.

This practice allows the maize or grass silage and the beet to be harvested at their optimum stage and makes feeding feed beet more versatile, as the high sugar effluent from the beet, which is absorbed by the silage instead of being lost, adds value to the feed.

There can be a cost advantage to clamping beet with forage as forage can replace concentrates or grain in a ration, even though there is a cost implication with chopping beet and adding it to the clamp, the result is a total mixed ration diet ready to go all year round.

Also, differing the chop size of the beet would guarantee flexibility towards adjusting the amount of beet included in the diet at different times of the year.

Did you know...

- The first importation of British Blue cattle into the UK was in 1982
- Approximately 50% of the UK's dairy beef inseminations are by 'British Blue' bulls and the numbers of British Blue crosses are on the rise.
- In 2007 the herd book for the breed was changed to "The British Blue Cattle Society"



Source: [The British Blue Cattle Society](#)

Thank you for reading the Future Farm monthly update newsletter, if you have any feedback or would like to see something in upcoming updates, please send your request to futurefarmenquiries@harper-adams.ac.uk.

We apologies for anyone who made a suggestion for the newsletter and the content you requested was not included. We are doing our best to gather this information for future issues. In the meantime, if you or someone else would like to know more about the farm and our practices, check out our newly updated website <https://futurefarm.zone/>.